

What is claimed is:

1. An imaging apparatus comprising:

imaging means for imaging a subject to be imaged and taking in a moving  
5 image and a still image of the subject;

focusing means for adjusting a focal length and focusing on the subject which is included in a first predetermined region within an imaging range of the imaging means;

reception means for receiving a designation regarding a position in the first  
10 region within the imaging range, the designation being inputted by a user; and

position setting means for setting the first region at a position within the imaging range, based on the position designation received by the reception means.

2. An imaging method comprising:

imaging a subject and taking in a moving image and a still image of the subject;

adjusting a focal length and focusing on the subject which is included in a first predetermined region within an imaging range of the imaging means;

receiving a designation regarding a position in the first region within the  
20 imaging range, the designation being inputted by a user; and

setting the first region at a position within the imaging range, based on the position designation received.

3. A program for causing a computer to perform an imaging process, the  
25 imaging process comprising:

a imaging step for imaging a subject to be imaged and taking in a moving image and a still image of the subject;

a focusing step for adjusting a focal length and focusing on the subject which is included in a first predetermined region within an imaging range of the  
30 imaging means;

a reception step for receiving a designation regarding a position in the first

region within the imaging range, the designation being inputted by a user; and  
a position setting step for setting the first region at a position within the imaging range, based on the position designation received by the reception means.

5 4. An imaging apparatus comprising:

imaging means for imaging a subject to be imaged and taking in a moving image and a still image of the subject;

focusing means for adjusting a focal length and focusing on the subject which is included in a first predetermined region within an imaging range of the 10 imaging means;

reception means for receiving a designation regarding a position at the first region within the imaging range, the designation being inputted by a user;

position setting means for setting the first region at a position within the imaging range, based on the position designation received by the reception means;

15 and

range setting means for setting up a range of the first region in accordance with the position set up by the position setting means.

5. The imaging apparatus according to claim 4, wherein:

20 the position setting means set up the position of the first region in such a way that a center of the first region is located at a center of the imaging range if the position designation is not received by the reception means.

6. The imaging apparatus according to claim 4, wherein:

25 the position setting means set up the position of the first region in such a way that a center of the first region is located at coordinates specified by the user if the position designation is received by the reception means,

7. The imaging apparatus according to claim 4, wherein:

30 if the position designation is received by the reception means, the range setting means set up the range of the first region in such a way that the range of the

first region set up is smaller than that of a case that the position designation is not received.

8. The imaging apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

5 display means for displaying the moving image obtained by imaging of the subject by the imaging means;

wherein the reception means is configured to comprise a touch panel overlaid on the display means, detect coordinates inputted by a user with a first method while allowing the user to check the moving image displayed on the display 10 means, and receive the coordinates as the position designation.

9. The imaging apparatus according to claim 8, wherein:

the first method is such that the user taps on the touch panel once.

15 10. The imaging apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

initialization means for initializing the setup of the first region and returning the setup from a state where the position designation is received by the reception means to a state where the position designation is not received;

20 wherein the reception means further receives an instruction to initialize the setup of the first region inputted by the user with a second method, and

the initialization means initialize the setup of the first region based on the instruction received by the reception means.

11. The imaging apparatus according to claim 10, wherein:

25 the second method is such that the user taps on the touch panel twice within a predetermined time period.

12. The imaging apparatus according to claim 10, wherein:

30 the second method is such that the user taps on the touch panel so as to be in contact therewith for more than a predetermined period of time period.

13. The imaging apparatus according to claim 8, wherein:

the display means superimpose an outer frame of the first region on the moving image and cause the outer frame to blink a predetermined number of times if the focusing means focuses on the subject that is included in the first region.

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14. The imaging apparatus according to claim 4, wherein:

the focusing means adjust the focal length and focus on the subject if the imaging means take in the still image and if the position setting means set up the position of the first region.

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15. The imaging apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising:

prohibition means for prohibiting an adjusting process of the focusing means if the focusing means focus on the subject that is included in the first region and if the imaging means takes in the still image.

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16. The imaging apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

exposure adjustment means for adjusting an exposure for a second predetermined region within the imaging range,

wherein the position setting means set up a position of the second region so  
20 that a center of the second region is positioned at a center of the first region that is set  
at the arbitrary position within the imaging range based on the position designation  
received by the reception means.

17. An imaging apparatus comprising:

imaging means for imaging a subject to be imaged and taking in a moving  
image and a still image of the subject;

focusing means for adjusting a focal length and focusing on the subject  
which is included in a first predetermined region within an imaging range of the  
imaging means;

reception means for receiving a designation regarding a position at the first  
region within the imaging range, the designation being inputted by a user;

position setting means for setting the first region at a position within the imaging range, based on the position designation received by the reception means;

range setting means for setting up a range of the first region in accordance with the position set up by the position setting means; and

5           prohibition means for prohibiting adjustment of the focal length by the focusing means,

              wherein the focusing means adjust the focal length and focus on the subject if the imaging means take in the still image and if the position setting means set up the position of the first region; and

10          the prohibition means prohibit the adjustment of the focusing means if the focusing means focus on the subject that is included in the first region and if the imaging means takes in the still image.

18.       The imaging apparatus according to claim 17, wherein:

15          the position setting means set up the position of the first region in such a way that a center of the first region is located at a center of the imaging range if the position designation is not received by the reception means.

19.       The imaging apparatus according to claim 17, wherein:

20          the position setting means set up the position of the first region in such a way that a center of the first region is located at coordinates specified by the user if the position designation is received by the reception means,

20.       The imaging apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:

25          display means for displaying the moving image obtained by imaging of the subject by the imaging means;

              wherein the reception means is configured to comprise a touch panel overlaid on the display means, detect coordinates inputted by a user with a first method while allowing the user to check the moving image displayed on the display

30          means, and receive the coordinates as the position designation.

21. The imaging apparatus according to claim 20, wherein:  
the first method is such that the user taps on the touch panel once.
22. The imaging apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising:  
5 initialization means for initializing the setup of the first region and returning  
the setup from a state where the position designation is received by the reception  
means to a state where the position designation is not received;  
wherein the reception means further receives an instruction to initialize the  
setup of the first region inputted by the user with a second method, and  
10 the initialization means initialize the setup of the first region based on the  
instruction received by the reception means.
23. The imaging apparatus according to claim 22, wherein:  
the second method is such that the user taps on the touch panel twice within  
15 a predetermined time period.
24. The imaging apparatus according to claim 22, wherein:  
the second method is such that the user taps on the touch panel so as to be in  
contact therewith for more than a predetermined period of time period.  
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25. The imaging apparatus according to claim 20, wherein:  
the display means superimpose an outer frame of the first region on the  
moving image and cause the outer frame to blink a predetermined number of times if  
the focusing means focuses on the subject that is included in the first region.  
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26. The imaging apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:  
exposure adjustment means for adjusting an exposure for a second  
predetermined region within the imaging range,  
wherein the position setting means set up a position of the second region so  
30 that a center of the second region is positioned at a center of the first region that is set  
at the arbitrary position within the imaging range based on the position designation

received by the reception means.

27. An imaging apparatus comprising:

an imaging section for imaging a subject to be imaged and taking in a  
5 moving image and a still image of the subject;

a focusing section for adjusting a focal length and focusing on the subject  
which is included in a first predetermined region within an imaging range of the  
imaging section;

10 a reception section for receiving a designation regarding a position in the  
first region within the imaging range, the designation being inputted by a user; and

a position setting section for setting the first region at a position within the  
imaging range, based on the position designation received by the reception section.